

Social and Economic Studies
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Introduction:

The Economics Workgroup (EWG) developed a number of study proposals to facilitate discussions and evaluate potential protection, mitigation and enhancement measures related to the Hells Canyon Complex of Dams (HCC) along the Snake River Corridor. These proposed studies were developed by economists, biological scientists and the public at large in concert with the scoping process and identified in the Formal Consultation Package (FCP). They were intended to balance resource values with the power benefits in the investigation of proper licensing requirements for the HCC over the next 30 years.

The study requests were submitted to Idaho Power for investigation and were subsequently turned down by the Company with the proviso that they would be doing a composite study (which was never completed) to review recreational values associated with warm water recreational fishing along Brownlee reservoir in support of economic development within Baker County, Oregon.

Conclusion:

Since these studies were never done it is difficult to evaluate the current preliminary application package in view of the potential for natural resource damages, economic stimulation to local communities and the region, and the effects of current operations on the social cultural values tribal communities place on the land and water resources that are a part of their heritage.

The preliminary application package and technical reports are considered incomplete based on this lack of information. It is important that these studies be completed prior to submission of the draft application package or be considered as part of the additional information request that FERC must require prior to investigating the environmental effects subsequent licensing alternatives.

Study Adequacy:

The studies are considered inadequate because they were never done.

BLM Conclusions and Recommendations:

Conclusions:

The studies need to be completed prior to any further analysis of the application package due to the importance in making rational decisions based on best available

information. This information would have been available if these studies were conducted as recommended and incorporated with the numerous studies that were done during the study phase of Idaho Power's Relicensing effort.

Recommendations:

It is therefore our recommendation that Idaho Power begin forthwith the following studies (see attachment s):

- ECONOMIC PROFILE OF SNAKE RIVER RECREATION
- ECONOMIC PROFILE OF SNAKE RIVER FISHERIES
- ECONOMIC PROFILE OF WATER USE ON THE SNAKE RIVER
- ECONOMIC PROFILE OF TRIBAL USE OF THE SNAKE RIVER

Further analysis may become necessary once these profile studies are completed because of the conclusions drawn from their results. It will then become necessary to evaluate what additional study needs will best result in obtaining the required information if it is necessary.